

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 21 to page 10, line 15 with the following paragraph:

--In order to further improve the stability in preservation, it is preferable that, in addition to the above-described oxygen removal, polyoxyethylene should be linked to the surfaces of the molecular assembly particles in advance. Here, for example, in the case where the above-described molecular assembly is made of lipids as its structural components, it suffices if a suspension of a lipid having a polyoxyethylene molecule linked thereto (that is, polyoxyethylene lipid) is added at a temperature of about 4 to 60°C. The hydrophobic moiety of the polyoxyethylene lipid molecule is inserted into and fixed on a surface of the molecular assembly particles containing the lipids, while a hydrophilic polyoxyethylene chain extends into the water phase in an elongated state (Sakai et al., Bioconjugate Chemistry, vol. 8, 23-30, 1997). It should be noted that the incorporation of the polyoxyethylene lipid is faster as the reaction temperature is higher; however the procedure may be carried out at lower temperature. Meanwhile, in the case where a great amount of cholesterol is contained in the molecular assembly, although no definite phase transition temperature is not specified, the introduction of the polyoxyethylene lipid can be fully conducted even below a phase transition temperature of the phospholipids ingredient. The molecular weight of the polyoxyethylene chain of the polyoxyethylene lipid may be about 1,000 to 20,000 Daltons, which is sufficient. The incorporation amount is about 0.01 to 3 mol% with respect to the total amount of the lipids exposed on the outer surface of each particle, or more preferably, the incorporation amount should be about 0.05 to 0.3 mol%. Examples of the hydrophobic site of the polyoxyethylene lipid include an ethanolamine-type phospholipids, cholesterol, alkyl-chain-linked glutamic acid, and alkyl-chain-linked lysine.

Application No. 10/091,440  
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2004

The type of bond between polyoxyethylene and a lipid moiety may be of, for example, an ester bond, urethane bond, amide bond or ether bond. When polyoxyethylene chains are introduced into the surface of each particle, a change in the particle diameter due to the aggregation and fusion of the particles during preservation can be suppressed. On the other hand, in the case of hemoglobin vesicles, it is possible to prevent the leakage of encapsulated elements including hemoglobin from the vesicles.--.

Please replace the Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached hereto.